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# The Inventor Information Resource Center

**Boston Public Library  
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The **Inventor Information Resource Center** has been set up by the Boston Public Library for the benefit of independent inventors and small companies with assistance from a grant from the Office of Energy-Related Inventions of the National Bureau of Standards. It is located in the Science Reference department of the Research Library and is open during regular library hours.

While some services are available at all times, those requiring extensive staff assistance will need to be scheduled by appointment. For additional information, please call (617) 536-5400, ext. 265.

The purpose of the **Inventor Information Resource Center** is to encourage innovation and to help the independent inventor. Visitors will find:

- a core collection of books and pamphlets dealing with inventions, patents, marketing, licensing, etc.
- assistance in state-of-the-art searches of the technical (non-patent) literature
- instruction in performing patent searches
- referral to government agencies offering assistance to independent inventors and small companies
- information about local, regional and national inventors groups
- announcements of programs/seminars about inventions and patents

The Boston Public Library is one of thirty-three libraries in the United States which has been designated a depository library of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. It has the largest patent collection in New England, including U.S. patents from 1790 on, British patents since 1617 and German patents from 1899-1938 as well as patent journals from many foreign countries.

In addition to the material displayed in the small area designated as the Inventor Information Resource Center, users are reminded that the Central Library complex contains a vast collection of books, journals, and government documents. Much of this material is for reference and research. All Massachusetts residents are entitled to a borrowers card upon presentation of identification showing name and address. Nonresidents may apply for a courtesy card.

